Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 – 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for sample preparation comprising:

obtaining a sample comprising a first type of cells and a second type of cells, wherein the first type of cells is at least twice as susceptible to a lysis agent as the second type of cells; and

applying the lysis agent to break the first type of cells;

~~The method of Claim 6, 7, 8, or 9~~ wherein the first type of cells are animal cells and the second type of cells are plant cells.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for sample preparation comprising:

obtaining a sample comprising a first type of cells and a second type of cells, wherein the first type of cells is at least twice as susceptible to a lysis agent as the second type of cells; and

applying the lysis agent to break the first type of cells;

~~The method of Claim 6, 7, 8, or 9~~ wherein the first type of cells are animal cells and the second type of cells are fungi cells.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for sample preparation comprising:

obtaining a sample comprising a first type of cells and a second type of cells, wherein the first type of cells is at least twice as susceptible to a lysis agent as the second type of cells; and

applying the lysis agent to break the first type of cells;

~~The method of Claim 6, 7, 8, or 9~~ wherein the first type of cells are gram negative bacteria and the second type of cells are gram positive bacteria.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of Claim 14 wherein the lysing agent is a relatively mild lysosome ~~digestion~~ digesting agent followed by a cell membrane lysis agent with the conditions that is sufficient for digesting gram negative bacteria and not sufficient for digesting gram positive bacteria.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method for sample preparation comprising:

obtaining a sample comprising a first type of cells and a second type of cells, wherein the first type of cells is at least twice as susceptible to a lysis agent as the second type of cells; and

applying the lysis agent to break the first type of cells;

~~The method of Claim 6, 7, 8 or 9~~ wherein the first type of cells are yeast cells and the second type of cells are bacteria or plant cells.

Claim 17 (original): The method of Claim 16 wherein the lysis agent is a zymolase, glucalase or lyticase digestion followed by a cell membrane lysis agent.

Claims 18 – 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method for detecting nucleic acids comprising:

obtaining a sample comprising a first type of cells and a second type of cells, wherein the first type of cells is at least twice as susceptible to a lysis agent as the second type of cells;

applying the lysis agent to break the first type of cells;

removing at least 60% of the second type of cells to obtain an isolate;

preparing a nucleic acid sample from the isolate and hybridizing the nucleic acid sample to a plurality of different nucleic acid probes

~~The method of Claim 27~~ wherein each of the different probes is immobilized on a bead or optical fibre.

Claims 32-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~29~~ 31 wherein the first type of cells are animal cells and the second type of cells are plant cells.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~29~~ 31 wherein the first type of cells are animal cells and the second type of cells are fungi cells.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~29~~ 31 wherein the first type of cells are gram negative bacteria and the second type of cells are gram positive bacteria.

Claim 38 (original): The method of Claim 37 wherein the lysing agent is a relatively mild lysosome digestion followed by a cell membrane lysis agent with the conditions that is

sufficient for digesting gram negative bacteria and not sufficient for digesting gram positive bacteria.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The method of Claim ~~29~~ 31 wherein the first type of cells are yeast cells and the second type of cells are bacteria or plant cells.

Claim 40 (original): The method of Claim 39 wherein the lysis agent is a zymolase, glucalase or lyticase digestion followed by a cell membrane lysis agent.

Claims 41 – 66 (canceled)

Amendment to the Drawings:

In response to PTO form 948 dated December 21, 2001, enclosed for filing in the subject application are three (3) sheets of formal drawings. The legends of the figures have been removed and the margins have been corrected to comply with the required specifications.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (3 sheets)